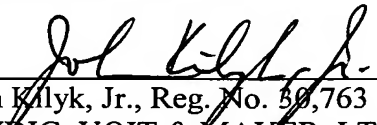


In re Appln. of Hirakawa et al.
Application No. Unassigned

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to comport with U.S. patent practice by removing multiple claim dependencies. No new matter has been added by way of these claim amendments. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



John Kilyk, Jr., Reg. No. 50,763
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Date: April 4, 2005

Amendment - Preliminary (Revised 11-23-04)